

From: (b) (6)
To: [Edwards, Allen \(Armed Services\)](#)
Cc: (b) (6); [Edwards, Allen \(Armed Services\)](#); [Clark, Samantha \(Armed Services\)](#); [Swabb, Erik \(Armed Services\)](#); (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Follow Up on SN Lovelace Drowning (May 2016)w
Date: Thursday, April 20, 2017 16:26:40

Al: Over to (b) (6) to take for action.

V/r (b) (6)

From: Edwards, Allen (Armed Services)
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 1:13:43 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6); Edwards, Allen (Armed Services); Clark, Samantha (Armed Services); Swabb, Erik (Armed Services)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Follow Up on SN Lovelace Drowning (May 2016)

(b) (6)

I need someone to brief me on the medical screening procedures for potential seal trainees.

Al

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)](#)]
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 4:51 PM
To: Edwards, Allen (Armed Services) <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Follow Up on SN Lovelace Drowning (May 2016)

Al:

My apologies.

The Medical Examiner report indicated that cardiomegaly was a contributing factor in the death of SN Lovelace. Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD) could have been caused by the artery being trapped between other structures when it doesn't go over the normal course, and therefore stops supplying blood/oxygen to the heart muscle. The location of the Right Coronary Artery in SN Lovelace was in a highly precarious position - trapped between the Aorta and Pulmonary Arteries - leaving it especially vulnerable to compression. I'm told there is no acceptable screening for anomalous coronary arteries, but they are definitely correlated with SCD, especially with extreme exertion.

When SN Lovelace was in distress in the water, an instructor aided SN Lovelace to the edge of the pool where additional instructors helped him out of the pool. He lost consciousness and became unresponsive as they helped him onto the pool deck. BUD/S personnel immediately called 911 for emergency medical services and began resuscitation efforts.

Let me know if you still would like a call.

V/r (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Edwards, Allen (Armed Services) [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)](#)]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 5:02 PM
To: (b) (6); (b) (6); Swabb, Erik (Armed Services); Clark, Jonathan (Armed Services); Clark, Samantha (Armed Services); Rosenthal, Jon (Armed Services); Leeling, Gary (Armed Services)

Cc: (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6),
(b) (6)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Follow Up on SN Lovelace Drowning (May 2016)

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6), LA-63 [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 4:55 PM
To: Edwards, Allen (Armed Services) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)>; Swabb, Erik (Armed Services) <(b) (6)>; Clark,
Jonathan (Armed Services) <(b) (6)>; Clark, Samantha (Armed Services)
<(b) (6)>; Rosenthal, Jon (Armed Services) <(b) (6)>
>; Leeling, Gary (Armed Services) <(b) (6)>
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)>;
(b) (6) >;
Subject: RE: Follow Up on SN Lovelace Drowning (May 2016)

Al:

I'll give you a call tomorrow...just gathering some additional info so I am up fully up to speed.

V/r (b) (6)

(b) (6)
Navy Office of Legislative Affairs
(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Edwards, Allen (Armed Services) [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 9:32 AM
To: (b) (6); Swabb, Erik (Armed Services); Clark, Jonathan (Armed Services); Clark,
Samantha (Armed Services); Rosenthal, Jon (Armed Services); Leeling, Gary (Armed Services)
Cc: (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6),
(b) (6); (b) (6)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Follow Up on SN Lovelace Drowning (May 2016)

Can someone give me a call to explain this in more detail? I struggle to understand how this tragic event could occur in a controlled training situation in a pool.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 9:33 AM
To: Swabb, Erik (Armed Services) <(b) (6)>; Clark, Jonathan (Armed Services)
<(b) (6)>; Clark, Samantha (Armed Services) <(b) (6)>
>; Edwards, Allen (Armed Services) <(b) (6)>; Rosenthal,
Jon (Armed Services) <(b) (6)>; Leeling, Gary (Armed Services)
<(b) (6)>
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)>;
(b) (6) >; (b) (6) >; (b) (6) >;
Subject: Follow Up on SN Lovelace Drowning (May 2016)

Good morning,

Following up on previous reports on the 6 May 2016 death of Seaman James 'Derek' Lovelace, who lost his life during a Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUDS) supervised training evolution, the Commanding Officer of Naval Special Warfare Basic Training Command has determined that the death was not the result of a crime and will not pursue criminal charges against any personnel in connection with the death. The decision follows the CO's review of the NCIS investigation, initiated and carried out according to DoD regulations pertaining to any death that occurs during training.

Naval Special Warfare Command's statement is provided below.

V/r,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Office of Legislative Affairs

"SAN DIEGO - The commanding officer of the Naval Special Warfare Basic Training Command has determined that the 6 May 2016 death of Seaman James 'Derek' Lovelace, a Basic Underwater Demolition and SEAL training (BUD/S) trainee, was not the result of a crime and will not pursue criminal charges against any personnel in connection with the death.

The decision by Cmdr. Liam Hulin, follows his review of a Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) investigation. The NCIS investigation was initiated and carried out according to Department of Defense regulations pertaining to any death that occurs during training.

"Our thoughts and prayers remain with the Lovelace family," said Hulin. "No loss of life in training is an acceptable loss."

The scope of the NCIS case was sufficient to provide Hulin with information necessary to determine whether the training fatality may have been caused by the commission of a crime. Based on the determination that criminal actions should not be taken against any personnel involved in the training evolution, a safety review previously held in abeyance to avoid a conflict among investigations, has initiated.

SN Lovelace's death occurred during Combat Swimmer Orientation, a water training exercise performed during the first week of BUD/S. The training assesses and develops students' competence, confidence and safety in the water. During the exercise students tread water and swim in a pool while wearing diving masks, and camouflage utility uniform with boots. While treading water, students perform survival skills that involve the removal of their mask, boots and uniform.

"To honor those who have fallen in combat we must provide the most realistic and operationally relevant training possible. To honor those who have fallen in training we must effectively mitigate the risks of that training," said Capt. Jay Hennessey, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Training Center.

"NSW training has been refined over more than 50 years, informed throughout by lessons learned in combat overseas as well as in training at home. We learn not only from our successes, but also from operational and training failures, mistakes and accidents. While these tragic occasions are infrequent, they greatly impact our small close-knit force and magnify the responsibility we feel to our teammates who have paid the ultimate price," said Hennessey.

The Naval Special Warfare Center, of which the Basic Training Command is a component, trains, qualifies and develops Naval Special Warfare Operators which form the foundation of the world's preeminent maritime special operations force. The maritime environment is the most hostile environment on the planet for military operations and requires operators with comfort, skill and confidence in the water to accomplish the mission."